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that country, the proprietor of the *Cyclopedia* was so obliging as to procure the fullest and most explicit information.

The result is shortly this, that Mr. Tennant of Glasgow was the first person who proposed the application of the oxy-muriate of magnesia to bleaching; and that Mr. Ramsey, near the same place, was the first who proposed it in the calico printers' process of clearing, nearly three years before Professor Davy had taken the least notice of it. Mr. Ramsey communicated his ideas upon the subject to a Mr. Arthur of Leven Bank; and shortly after several calico printers commenced the use of it.

I have the satisfaction also, in consequence of the same inquiry, of giving it as the opinion of the most experienced bleachers in Scotland, that the oxy-muriate of lime is an ingredient perfectly applicable and safe in bleaching both linens and cottons.

From what has been stated already it will not be difficult for your chemical readers to form a just estimate of what Professor Davy considers as his proposals to improve the processes of bleaching, and calico clearing. It will be evident that in the former, which has been long deservedly neglected as altogether nugatory, he has been anticipated by Mr. Tennant not less than 11 years; and in the latter, which would appear to be of some utility, by Mr. Ramsey three years.

Having already extended this letter to what I fear will be considered an unreasonable length, I am obliged to reserve other matter connected with this subject for a future communication.

After the very coarse attack upon my first paper upon this subject, already adverted to as coming from under the eye of the Professor of

Chemistry to the Royal Institution, I conceived it necessary, in justice to myself, to enter into the full discussion of the subject, which, though not likely to be extremely palatable to my opponents, may not be quite uninteresting to some of your readers. Permit me to conclude with observing, that it would be a most desirable circumstance if a Professor of any of the sciences, when he thinks it necessary to employ any of his junior pupils as an instrument to relieve him from the irksome task of defending his supposed discoveries, and attempting to repel the unanswerable arguments of an adversary, he would at the same time give him the useful advice, to learn at least something of the subject upon which he is about to commit himself to the public, and thus qualify himself to give something more in reply than coarse invective, false accusations, and erroneous experiments.

I should be glad also that upon the subject of bleaching, the best authors were consulted and read with more care at the Royal Institution than Van Helmont's book was, preparatory to the description of Professor Leslie's differential Thermometer, which is given in the *Elements of Chemical Philosophy*.\*

JAMES OGILBY.

16, *More-street, Dublin.*

24th Sept., 1812.

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*To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.*

“If I one soul improve, I do not write in vain.”

WHEN any subject occupies much of our thoughts and attention, we frequently err in supposing that

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\* See Professor Leslie's letter to the editor of the *Caledonian Mercury*.

the same subject is equally interesting to other persons. I was so much pleased with Catharine Cappe's remarks on charity-schools, and on apprenticing female children after they leave charity-schools, that I requested you to insert her observations, without considering that many of your readers might think the subject tedious. Permit me, however, at the hazard of being accused of not following the good maxim "of nothing too much," and of dwelling too long on one subject, to call the attention of your readers once more to the highly important subject of the education of the poor.

Catharine Cappe has stated the great advantages which have been derived from the superintendence of ladies in schools for the female children of the poor. A hired teacher may doubtless conscientiously perform her duty; but there is a degree of enthusiasm, which no money can purchase, required to overcome the difficulties which arise in all such arduous undertakings. Many persons are liberal in subscribing money for poor-schools; but time is, in some instances, more valuable than money; and as example frequently tends to induce to the practice of greater correctness of conduct, the precept and example of ladies of superior intellectual endowments, may contribute to an increased correctness of morality among the poorer classes of society.

I am sorry to observe, if we may judge by actions, that the subject of the education of the poor occupies very little of the attention of ladies, who, from their station in life, may be supposed to have much leisure time. I have frequently inquired if many ladies in Belfast interested themselves about the Lancasterian school for girls; but I have never been informed of a single individual!

I am willing to hope that I have been misinformed: as surely in the town of Belfast, a place so famous for many very excellent charitable institutions, it may reasonably be expected that many ladies might be found who are not so completely absorbed in fashionable and frivolous pursuits, as to neglect to cultivate that species of benevolence which does not proceed from a romantic or sentimental emotion, but from a fixed principle.

It has been asserted that the poor are so ungrateful that many benevolent persons are frequently discouraged from assisting them; I admit that some individuals are ungrateful: but let us not be discouraged from exerting ourselves to raise them above their present degraded state, because we may sometimes have been disappointed in our too sanguine expectations. In our plans for their instruction, or their relief, let us not seek for their gratitude. The pleasure arising from the "luxury of doing good," and the consciousness of having endeavoured to improve the condition, and promote the happiness of our fellow-beings, is a sufficient reward for our exertions. "Let this be your only pleasure," says the Emperor Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, in his Meditations, "and seek for no other amusement; to be constantly employed in the service of mankind, and to proceed from one public-spirited generous action to another, with a constant eye to the approbation of the Deity." PORCIA.

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*To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.*

**O**N digging near a place in which a pump was sunk, in the town of Lisburn, a second pavement was discovered, about two feet below the surface of the ground. Near this